IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 6, 8, 10 to 12, 14 to 16, 20, 22 to 26 and 28 to 31 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

a storage device that stores scene information including, at least, data for at least one representative frame extracted from a scene, data for an interval of the scene, and data for a significance level of the scene of each of a plurality of scenes included in a moving picture to be played back, wherein each of the plurality of scenes is mutually disjoint and is managed with [[has]] no ~~inclusion~~ relationship with the other scenes so as to have the single significance level, a single unique identification and the single unique representative frame ~~that the plurality of scenes do not construct a tree structure~~;

a display device that displays an externally designated significance level and extracts, on the basis of the [[an]] externally designated significance level, images of the representative frames of the plurality of scenes, with each extracted image being extracted from a scene of the plurality of scenes having a significance level ~~having significance levels~~ equal to or higher than the externally designated significance level from the storage device, in order to [[and]] concurrently display ~~displays~~ the extracted images chronologically;

a selection device that receives a selection of one of the concurrently-displayed images of the representative frames on the basis of an external designation; and

a playback control device that controls playback of ~~plays back~~ the scenes corresponding to the images of the representative frames, the playback control ~~selected by the~~

~~selection~~ device controlling playback so as to play back the scenes corresponding to the selected images of the representative frames when the selection device receives the selection, and change a current scene to be currently played back, to a temporally preceding or subsequent scene having the significance level the same as the externally designated significance level displayed by the display device and being most temporally close to the current scene if the significance level of the current scene is different from the externally designated significance level displayed by the display device.

2. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display device chronologically displays a specified number of the images of the representative frames of the plurality of scenes concurrently.

3. (Previously presented) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display device refers to the scene information in the storage device when a significance level is externally designated, and chronologically displays images of the representative frames of the scenes having significance levels equal to or higher than the externally designated significance level.

4. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the images of the representative frames included reduced images.

5. (Previously presented) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display device displays the images of the representative frames with data indicative of the significance level corresponding to the representative frames being added to the images of the representative frames.

6. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display device displays the scene played back by the playback control device together with the images of the representative frames of the scenes, and displays data for discriminating representative frames corresponding to the scene being currently played back from the other representative frames.

7. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display device changes a display condition in the images of the representative frames of the scenes that are chronologically displayed based on an external instruction.

8. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the display device changes a display condition in the images of the representative frames of the scenes that are chronologically displayed, synchronizing with the images being played back by the playback control device.

9. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the display device changes a display condition and selects whether change of the display condition is synchronized with the images being played back by the playback device, based on an external instruction.

10. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the playback device plays back one of the scenes corresponding to one of the images of the representative frames of the scenes, which is externally designated among the images of the representative frames of the scenes displayed by the display control device.

11. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

a storage device that stores scene information including, at least, data for at least one representative frame extracted from a scene, and data for a significance level of the scene of each of a plurality of scenes included in a moving picture to be played back, wherein each of the plurality of scenes is mutually disjoint and is managed with [[has]] no ~~inclusion~~ relationship with the other scenes so as to have the single significance level, a single unique identification and the single unique representative frame ~~that the plurality of scenes do not construct a tree structure~~;

a display control device that controls display so as to display an externally designated significance level and extract ~~extracts~~, on the basis of the [[an]] externally designated significance level, images of the representative frames of the plurality of scenes, with each extracted image being extracted from a scene of the plurality of scenes having a significance level ~~having significance levels~~ greater than or equal to the externally designated significance

level from the storage device, in order to ~~and~~ concurrently display ~~displays~~ the extracted images chronologically; and

a selection device that receives a selection of one of the concurrently-displayed representative frames on the basis of an external designation,

wherein the display control device controls to play back the scenes corresponding to the selected images of the representative frames when the selection device receives the selection, and change a current scene to be currently played back, to a temporally preceding or subsequent scene having the significance level the same as the externally designated significance level displayed by the display control device and being most temporally close to the current scene if the significance level of the current scene is different from the externally designated significance level displayed by the display control device.

12. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the display control device refers to the scene information in the storage device when a significance level is externally designated, and chronologically displays images of the representative frames of the scenes having significance levels equal to or higher than the externally designated significance level.

13. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the images of the representative frames included reduced images.

14. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the display control device displays the images of the representative frames with data indicative of the significance level corresponding to the representative frames being added to the images of the representative frames.

15. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the display control device changes a display condition in the images of the representative frames of the scenes that are chronologically displayed based on an external instruction.

16. (Currently amended) An image processing method comprising:

storing, in a storage device, scene information including, at least, data for at least one representative frame extracted from a scene, data for an interval of the scene and data for a significance level of each of a plurality of scenes included in a moving picture to be played back, wherein each of the plurality of scenes is mutually disjoint and is managed with [[has]] no ~~inclusion~~ relationship with the other scenes so as to have the single scene significance level, a single unique identification and the single unique representative frame ~~that the plurality of scenes do not construct a tree structure~~;

receiving an external designation of a significance level;

displaying an externally designated significance level and extracting, on the basis of the external designation of the significance level, images of the representative frames of the plurality of scenes, with each extracted image being extracted from a scene of the plurality of scenes having a significance level ~~having significance levels~~ equal to or higher than the

externally designated significance level in order to [[and]] concurrently display ~~displaying~~ the extracted images, the concurrently-displayed images being displayed chronologically;

receiving a selection of one of the concurrently-displayed images of the representative frames on the basis of an external designation; and

controlling playback of ~~playing back~~ the scenes corresponding to the images of the representative frames, the playback controlling step being arranged to play back the scenes corresponding to the selected images of the representative frames when the selection receiving step receives the selection, and change a current scene to be currently played back, to a temporally preceding or subsequent scene having the significance level the same as the externally designated significance level displayed in the display step and being most temporally close to the current scene if the significance level of the current scene is different from the externally designated significance level displayed in the display ~~selected in the selecting~~ step.

17. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the display step chronologically displays a specified number of the images of the representative frames of the plurality of scenes concurrently.

18. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 16, wherein the images of the representative frames included reduced images.

19. (Previously presented) An image processing method according to claim 16, wherein the display step displays the images of the representative frames with data indicative of the significance level corresponding to the representative frames being added to the images of the representative frames.

20. (Currently amended) An image processing method according to claim 16, wherein the display step displays the scene played back in the playback control step together with the images of the representative frames of the scenes, and displays data for discriminating representative frames corresponding to the scene being currently played back from the other representative frames.

21. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 16, wherein the display step changes a display condition in the images of the representative frames of the scenes that are chronologically displayed based on an external instruction.

22. (Currently amended) An image processing method according to claim 20, wherein the display step changes a display condition in the images of the representative frames of the scenes that are chronologically displayed, synchronizing with the images being played back in the playback control step.

23. (Currently amended) An image processing method according to claim 20, wherein the display step changes a display condition and selects whether changes of the display condition is synchronized with the images being played back in the playback control step, based on an external instruction.

24. (Currently amended) An image processing method according to claim 16, wherein the playback control step plays back one of the scenes corresponding to one of the images of the representative frames of the scenes, which is externally designated among the images of the representative frames of the scenes displayed in the display step.

25. (Currently amended) An image processing method comprising:

storing, in a storage device, scene information including, at least, data for at least one representative frame extracted from a scene and data for a significance level of the scene of each of a plurality of scenes included in a moving picture to be played back, wherein each of the plurality of scenes is mutually disjoint and is managed with [[has]] no ~~inclusion~~ relationship with the other scenes so as to have the single significance level identification, a single unique identification and the single unique representative frame ~~that the plurality of scenes do not construct a tree structure~~;

controlling display so as to display an externally designated significance level and extract ~~extracting~~, on the basis of the [[an]] externally designated significance level, images of the representative frames of the plurality of scenes, with each extracted image being extracted from a scene of the plurality of scenes having a significance level ~~having significance levels~~

equal to or higher than the externally designated significance level from the storage device, to [[and]] concurrently display ~~displaying~~ the extracted images, the concurrently-displayed images being displayed chronologically; and

receiving a selection of one of the concurrently-displayed images of the representative frames on the basis of an external designation,

wherein the display control step is arranged to play back the scenes corresponding to the selected images of the representative frames when the selection device receives the selection, and change a current scene to be currently played back, to a temporally preceding or subsequent scene having the significance level the same as the externally designated significance level displayed by the display control device and being most temporally close to the current scene if the significance level of the current scene is different from the externally designated significance level displayed by the display control step.

.

26. (Currently amended) An image processing method according to claim 25, wherein the display control step refers to the scene information in the storage device when a significance level is externally designated, and chronologically displays images of the representative frames of the scenes having significance levels equal to or higher than the externally designated significance level.

27. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 25, wherein the images of the representative frames included reduced images.

28. (Currently amended) An image processing method according to claim 25, wherein the display control step displays the images of the representative frames with data indicative of the significance level corresponding to the representative frames being added to the images of the representative frames.

29. (Currently amended) An image processing method according to claim 25, wherein the display control step changes a display condition in the images of the representative frames of the scenes that are chronologically displayed based on an external instruction.

30. (Currently amended) A computer readable storage medium that stores image processing program codes for playing back a moving picture, the computer readable storage medium storing:

a code for storing, in a storage device, scene information including, at least, data for at least one representative frame extracted from a scene, data for an interval of the scene and data for a significance level of the scene of each of a plurality of scenes included in a moving picture to be played back, wherein each of the plurality of scenes is mutually disjoint and is managed with [[has]] no ~~inclusion~~ relationship with the other scenes so as to have the single significance level, a single unique identification and the single unique representative frame ~~that the plurality of scenes does not construct a tree structure~~;

a code for displaying an externally designated significance level and extracting, on the basis of an externally designated significance level, images of the representative frames of plurality of the scenes, with each extracted image being extracted from a scene of the plurality of

scenes having a significance level ~~having significance levels~~ equal to or higher than the externally designated significance level from the storage device, [[and]] in order to concurrently display ~~displaying~~ the extracted images, the concurrently-displayed images being displayed chronologically;

a code for receipt of a selection of one of the concurrently-displayed images of the representative frames on the basis of an external designation; and

a code for controlling playback of ~~playing back~~ the scenes corresponding to the images of the representative frames, the playback controlling step being arranged to play back the scenes corresponding to the selected images of the representative frames when the selection receiving step receives the selection, and change a current scene to be currently played back, to a temporally preceding or subsequent scene having the significance level the same as the externally designated significance level displayed in the display step and being most temporally close to the current scene if the significance level of the current scene is different from the externally designated significance level displayed in the display ~~selected in the selecting step~~.

31. (Currently amended) A computer readable storage medium that stores image processing program codes for playing back a moving picture, the computer readable storage medium storing:

a code for storing, in a storage device, scene information including, at least, data for at least one representative frame extracted from a scene and data for a significance level of the scene of each of a plurality of scenes included in a moving picture to be played back, wherein each of the plurality of scenes is mutually disjoint and is managed with [[has]] no ~~inclusion~~

relationship with the other scenes so as to have the single unique significance level, a single unique identification and the single representative frame ~~that the plurality of scenes do not construct a tree structure~~;

a code for controlling display so as to display an externally designated significance level and extract ~~extracting~~, on the basis of the [[an]] externally designated significance level, images of the representative frames of the plurality of scenes, with each extracted image being extracted from a scene of the plurality of scenes having a significance level ~~having significance levels~~ equal to or higher than the externally designated significance level, in order to [[and]] concurrently display ~~displaying~~ the extracted images, the concurrently-displayed images being displayed chronologically; and

a code for receipt of a selection of one of the concurrently-displayed images of the representative frames on the basis of an external designation,

wherein the display control step is arranged to play back the scenes corresponding to the selected images of the representative frames when the selection device receives the selection, and change a current scene to be currently played back, to a temporally preceding or subsequent scene having the significance level the same as the externally designated significance level displayed by the display control device and being most temporally close to the current scene if the significance level of the current scene is different from the externally designated significance level displayed by the display control step.